



Joint Information Center

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

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DATE: January 17, 2007 #26

Power restored to Holdrege

Nearly all rural residents now have power

Significant progress continues in the efforts to restore power to areas affected by the recent ice storms. The Nebraska Public Power District announced today that line power has been restored to Holdrege, the largest Nebraska community relying on emergency generators for electricity. Residents and businesses in Holdrege are being reconnected to the city grid, and will soon be back on line power.

The vast majority of rural residents in the affected areas of Nebraska have also had their power restored. By Wednesday morning, only 190 customers were left without power. It was estimated that approximately 30,000 Nebraska customers had been without power following the storm.

"I have been very impressed with the swift response and commitment of Nebraska's public power districts to restoring power to those impacted by storms," said Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman. "This has been a huge challenge, particularly when you consider that 2,900 miles of transmission lines were knocked out by these storms. Public power workers have risen to the challenge and responded commendably. I also want to commend the patience and perseverance of all those who've endured the last few weeks without power. This has been an incredibly difficult situation for so many families and businesses, and I cannot say enough about the way they've dealt with these challenges."

Public power officials remind Nebraskans that the transmission system in the central part of the state is still fragile. Only one of the three major transmission lines supplying power to Holdrege has been restored, which is providing power to the entire community. It will take months before all transmission lines can be restored, and the areas impacted by the recent storms may be more vulnerable to outages until restoration is complete.

Six other communities continue to rely on power provided by emergency generators, including: Funk, Hildreth, Inland, Kenesaw, Loomis, and Wilcox. It is expected that those communities will have access to line power restored in the next two weeks.